

Paw-Print PRESS

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**Meet
Wolfie**

This loving girl's journey has been long and hard, but your kindness brought hope. *Story continued inside.*

95 YEARS OF ENRICHING LIVES
POTTER LEAGUE
for animals



Wolfie's Resilient Spirit



In the tapestry of life, there are threads of hardship and threads of hope, interwoven to create stories of resilience. Such is the story of Wolfie, a cat whose journey embodies the unwavering spirit of survival and the transformative power of compassion.

Wolfie's story began when she and her feline companions were surrendered by a caregiver grappling with her own challenges. This caregiver, the daughter of the owner who had fallen ill and recently passed away, was doing her very best to care for her ill mother and the five cats in her charge. Despite facing overwhelming circumstances, she showed remarkable compassion and determination to provide for her family, both human and furry alike, during a time of great need.

Wolfie stood out with her endearing personality and petite frame. With her charming habit of making "air muffins" and offering tender headbutts, Wolfie endeared herself to all who crossed her path.

While her personality was endearing, her physical condition was alarming. Wolfie faced a significant health challenge — a bulging eye resulting from past trauma. Thanks to the support of our community, she received the vital medical attention she so urgently needed. Through successful surgery and dedicated care, she embarked on a journey of healing, one filled with hope and promise.

Today, Wolfie thrives, a beacon of resilience and hope. Her journey serves as a testament to the strength of the human-animal bond and the transformative impact of love and compassion.

As we reflect on Wolfie's journey, we extend our deepest empathy to her previous owners, who faced their own challenges with courage and resilience. Their decision to seek help for Wolfie and her companions, amidst their own struggles, is a testament to the depth of their love and compassion.

Your compassion and generosity enable us to provide care and hope for animals like Wolfie, transforming lives and creating brighter futures. Thank you for being part of Wolfie's story and for supporting our mission to positively impact the lives of animals in need.

Enriching the Lives of Shelter Animals, Literally!

At our Animal Care Center, we are committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for all animals in our care. Our comprehensive In-Kennel Canine and Feline Enrichment programs are designed to stimulate the minds and bodies of our dogs and cats, helping them become more comfortable so they quickly find loving homes.

🐾 Canine Enrichment: Our program for dogs includes a variety of activities and toys that challenge their brains to relieve stress and boredom. From food-dispensing puzzles to hide-and-seek games, these enrichment opportunities allow our canine residents to use their natural problem-solving skills and focus their energy in a constructive way. This contributes to their overall well-being and reduces the likelihood of unwanted behaviors, making them more attractive to potential adopters.

🐾 Feline Enrichment: For our cat friends, we provide engaging enrichment items like Churu Pops, catnip toys, snuffle mats, and foraging boxes. These stimulating activities challenge the cats' natural instincts, relieving stress and boredom, and helping them become more confident and sociable.

Our dedicated team of volunteers and animal care staff play a crucial role in implementing these enrichment programs where each day they distribute enrichment items, record their usage, and replenish the supplies.

By investing in enrichment programs, we are not only improving the quality of life for the animals in our care, but also shortening the time it takes to find loving homes. **Your generous support helps us continue to provide these vital resources and give our shelter animals the best possible chance at a happy and fulfilling life. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of these deserving pets.**



Scan the QR code to view our enrichment items wishlist and help us keep our program stocked.



Championing Compassion: 95 Years of the Potter League for Animals



Nestled in the heart of Newport stands 25 Catherine Street, a house steeped in history and bearing witness to the birth of a remarkable legacy — the Potter League for Animals. Once the residence of Clement C. Moore, author of “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” this iconic address would later become a symbol of compassion and advocacy for animal welfare.

Following Moore’s passing in 1863, the house changed hands and found itself in the possession of Richard M. Blatchford, a distinguished diplomat and President Lincoln’s minister to Italy. Blatchford left the house to his grandson, Robert Potter, whose marriage to Virginia L. Van Voorhees, a fervent animal lover, would shape the future for animals and people on Aquidneck Island.

In 1929, inspired by Virginia’s passion and guided by her vision, a coalition of influential Newport women, including Emma Norman and Mary van Beuren, rallied together to establish the Newport County League for Animals. These trailblazers were driven by a shared commitment to champion the wellbeing of animals on Aquidneck Island and beyond.



The League’s journey took a significant step forward in 1931 with the acquisition of a building on Harrington Street, marking the establishment of the county’s inaugural animal shelter. This milestone was made possible by a lead gift



from Mabel Norman Cerio, whose generous donation ignited a groundswell of support and laid the foundation for future endeavors.

Virginia Potter’s legacy endured long after her passing in 1958, as her generous bequest prompted the organization’s renaming in honor of her late husband, Robert Potter — a testament to their shared devotion to the cause of animal wellbeing.

The League’s commitment to innovation and progress remained unwavering in the decades that followed.

Recognizing the importance of preventive care, the League introduced a spay and neuter program in Newport as early as 1964. An aging facility necessitated the shelter’s relocation to Oliphant Lane in the mid-1970s, where a modern facility was built in 1978.

In 2008, the League unveiled our state-of-the-art Animal Care and Adoption Center — a beacon of hope and healing for animals in need. This pioneering facility, designed to LEED Gold standards, not only provided a sanctuary for homeless pets but also served as a hub for community engagement and education.



As the League entered the 21st century, we expanded our scope and services to address emerging needs and challenges. Strategic partnerships and acquisitions, such as the Rhode Island Community Spay and Neuter Clinic in Warwick and Pets In Need Clinic in Riverside, broadened the organization’s impact and solidified our position as a leader in animal welfare.

In 2021, recognizing the inseparable bond between human and animal welfare, the League appointed our first Community Navigator — a visionary role dedicated to supporting individuals and families in crisis while keeping their beloved pets by their side.



While the League’s physical landscape has evolved over the past century, its founding principles — rooted in compassion, advocacy, and service — remain. As we celebrate 95 years of service, we invite the community to join hands in honoring the legacy of our founders and shaping a future where animals and humans thrive together.

For a visual journey through our rich history, scan the QR code to watch a video encapsulating our journey of compassion and advocacy.



BMOD Graduates:

Our Behavior Team ensures that both our shelter animals and animals in our foster homes receive enrichment and behavior training. By supporting their mental well-being, dozens of dogs and cats “graduated” from our B-Mod program. Thanks to generous donors like yourself, dogs and cats like Clover & Martha May get the expert training they need to blossom and transform.



Martha May

Martha May’s arrival was marked by confusion and fear. As a stray, she struggled to trust, often hissing and growling at our attempts to interact with her. But with patience and a gentle approach, we knew we could help her feel safe again.

Treats became the key to Martha’s heart. Through tempting treats and slow movements, we gradually earned her trust, starting with our petting tool. Each day brought small victories as Martha began to relax and show signs of progress. Her once-defensive demeanor softened as she learned that not all human interaction brought harm.

Discovering her sensitivities to fast and loud movements, we respected her boundaries, creating a safe environment for her to thrive. Approaching Martha with calmness and patience, we earned her trust one cautious step at a time.

After six weeks of dedicated care, Martha May found a loving home where she could continue to flourish. Her journey showcases the transformative power of patience, treats, and trust, reminding us of the resilience of animals when given the chance to heal and thrive.

Clover

Clover’s journey from a shelter facing closure in New Jersey to finding a loving home is truly heartwarming. Initially showing signs of fear, anxiety, and stress, he struggled with being petted and restrained, especially for any veterinary care, and used his mouth to create distance from people.

However, with the dedicated efforts of our animal care staff, Clover began associating positive experiences like playing ball and tug of war with pets and other interactions that once caused him stress, gradually overcoming his fears. It’s a testament to the power of patience, understanding, and positive reinforcement in helping dogs like Clover build trust and confidence.

Placing Clover in a foster home allowed him to thrive in a stable environment with a routine. It allowed Clover to experience a sense of security and familiarity, significantly improving his behavior and well-being.

After ten weeks in our care, Clover finally found a family that understood his quirks and loved him unconditionally. He has since transformed into a loving “Velcro dog,” demonstrating the profound impact of patience, understanding, and meeting animals where they are in transforming the lives of shelter pets just like him.



Save the Dates

 **Yappy Hour:**
July 21, 2024

 **Pints for Paws:**
September 28, 2024

 **Pawdrain:**
September 8, 2024

 **Heart & Sole Walk for Animals:**
October 20, 2024

For a full list of virtual and in-person events, visit www.potterleague.org/get-involved/events-calendar.



Animal Care & Adoption Center

87 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842

401.846.8276 (p)
401.846.0681 (f)

Spay & Neuter Clinic

235 Elm Street
Warwick, RI 02888

401.369.7297 (p)
401.369.7295 (f)

Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic

50 Amaral Street
Riverside, RI 02915

401.270.3832 (p)
401.270.3487 (f)

www.PotterLeague.org

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